

REMARKS

This response to the Office Action mailed on March 15, 2004 cancels no claims, amends claims 14, 23, 49, 50, and 67-69, and adds no new claims. As a result, claims 14-17, 19-22, and 40-69 remain pending in the Application.

Claims 14-17, 19-22 and 40-69 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph as indefinite. Amended claims 14, 50, and 67 replace the term “providing” with a term of equivalent scope, as suggested by the Examiner. Amended claims 23, 68, and 69 provide antecedent basis for the terms “prolog node” and “epilog node.” The “defining” phraseology is used to avoid any interpretation that these nodes form a part of the inner region, since, of course, they reside outside the inner loop.

Claims 23 and 69 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as incomplete. Amended claims 23 and 69 recite that the selecting operation occurs “in a control flow graph.” The remaining operations incorporate this recitation either by mentioning it explicitly or by referring to elements that are explicitly within the flow graph.

Conclusion

For the above and other reasons, Applicant urges that the claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests notification to that effect. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6971 to facilitate prosecution of this Application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

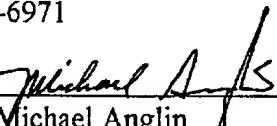
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By their Representatives,

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Date 15 June 2004

By _____


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Reg. No. 24,916

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 15th day of June 2004.

Anne M. Richards

Name


Signature